



Quilters understand how much comfort a quilted hug can provide. It's what we do.

Lemn Sissay OBE, official poet of the 2012 Olympics, recent chancellor of Manchester University, and a care leaver himself, said that when he was moved from long term foster care to residential care aged 12, all he wanted was a hug.

In 2012, he developed the idea of volunteers raising funds for, and hosting, a Christmas Day event – dinner, gifts, and good fun – and every year since then, volunteers have hosted Christmas Day dinners, set up under the auspices of the Gold From The Stone Foundation, for young people who have left the local authority care system, and who would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone.

In 2018 a group of quilters decided to give quilted hugs to these young adults. In our first year 120 quilts were donated to 3 of those Christmas Dinners. In 2022 we provided around 1000 quilts to over 20 dinners and outreach programmes. We now also gift throughout the year via relevant charities, local authorities, and health authorities throughout the UK to young people aged 16-25, with the recipients being encouraged to choose their own hug from those provided. Our reach expands every year, covering the outer reaches of the Scottish Islands to the Channel Islands; Northern Ireland; England and Wales.

You can help us to provide a hug for a young adult leaving care in several ways:

We accept quilts that are long and thin so they can be wrapped around a young person to provide a hug:

- between 40" and 50" wide
- between 66" and 72" long, although slightly longer is also ok
- at least 20" longer than they are wide
- the ideal size is 70" x 44"

Please do not use licensed fabric or fabric that is heavier than quilting weight fabric, i.e., no curtaining or upholstery fabric and remember that we're making for young adults, not children.

We're happy to accept fabric donations, orphan blocks and monetary donations. Our bank account details are: Barclays Bank, sort code: 20-98-98, account number: 83050262, account name: Quilts For Care Leavers

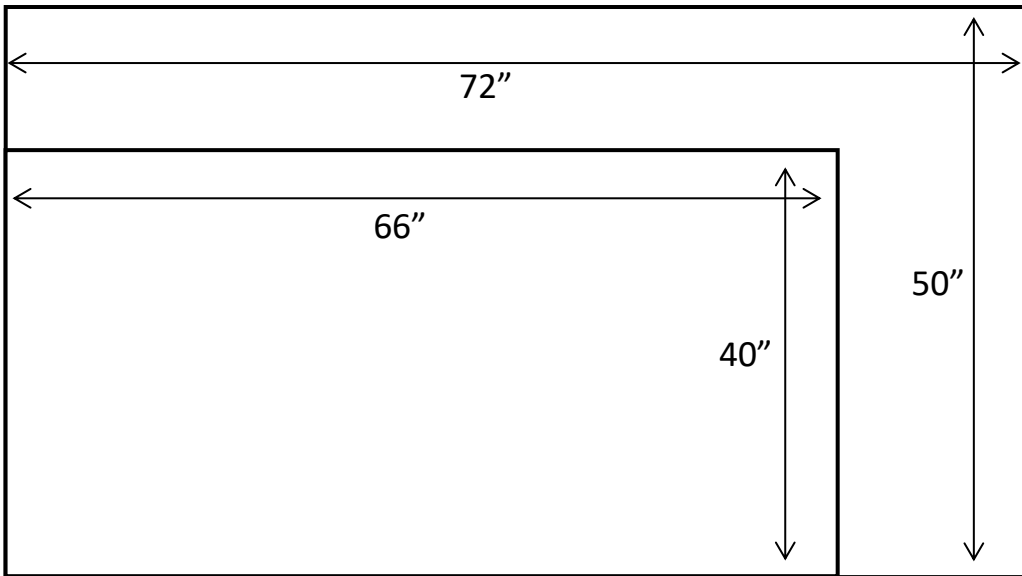
We also have

- a team of volunteer longarmers who, if you provide a top, backing, binding and a contribution to the cost of wadding, will longarm your top for you.
- a monthly block drive group for those who prefer to make blocks rather than complete quilts or tops.
- A Morsbag group providing a fabric bag to carry the hug home.

You can find us on Facebook – search "Quilts for Care Leavers" for our general page or "Quilts for Care Leavers Makers" for our closed makers group (please answer all 3 questions to join). You can also contact us via e-mail at q4cleavers@gmail.com or via our website: q4cl.org.uk (operational but a work in progress).

We'd be happy to hear from you and are grateful for your help.

Maggie Lloyd-Jones, Founder



Minimum and maximum quilt sizes:

The long side can be between 66" and 72" (can be longer)

The short side can be between 40" and 50"

The long side should be at least 20" longer than the short side

The 'ideal' is 44" x 70"